Application Serial No.: 09/985,689 Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2003

AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the substitute Abstract appearing at page 62 and insert therefor the enclosed substitute Abstract as new page 62.

For the Office's convenience, the substitute Abstract has been incorporated into the substitute specification (submitted herewith) as new page 42.

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to alkaline proteases having high specific activity and strong oxidant resistance. The present invention also relates to alkaline proteases having excellent detergency that is to be added to a detergent.